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RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Letter dated 9 August 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Equatorial Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a communiqué from the Government of Equatorial Guinea denouncing non-compliance with the National Pact (A/48/211, annex) by the political parties of the opposition of Equatorial Guinea (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of this letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 109 and 115 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Dámaso NDONG
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/48/150.

ANNEX

Communiqué from the Government of Equatorial Guinea concerning the National Pact of 18 March 1993

The Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea has learned of a communiqué signed by the political parties of the opposition, which was disseminated and discussed by Radio Exterior of Spain in its broadcast to Equatorial Guinea yesterday. In the communiqué the political parties of the opposition announced that they would suspend their cooperation in the thorough review of the electoral rolls, maintaining that the review of the electoral rolls is not taking place with the assistance of international experts.

The Government believes that this is the latest stance taken by the political parties of the opposition in order to slow down the normal course of the democratization process under way. As background information to this attitude of the political parties of the opposition, the Government wishes to remind national and international public opinion of the following:

First, on three occasions, the Government invited the political parties of the opposition to participate in the elaboration of the Electoral Law, but, unfortunately, no representatives from any of the various political parties of the opposition were present at the meetings convened by mutual agreement for that purpose on 16, 18 and 19 November 1992. Today, however, they are demanding the review of the Electoral Law, duly promulgated in accordance with legislative procedure;

Secondly, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 9 (c) of the National Pact, the Government was counting on the political parties of the opposition to help organize the Donors' Round Table in order to finance the electoral process. However, at the working meetings held for that purpose, the political parties of the opposition decided not to participate in the Donors' Round Table, demanding CFA francs 92 million as a precondition, and forgetting that the object of the Donors' Round Table is to attract funds to finance the political parties and the electoral administration;

Thirdly, since the political parties of the opposition had requested the thorough review of the electoral rolls, to which the Government agreed in accordance with paragraph 10 of the National Pact, and the Government had made provision for compliance with this Pact with the assistance of United Nations experts, it is surprising that the political parties of the opposition are now refusing to participate in the implementation phase of the thorough review of the electoral rolls, on the ground that assistance from international experts is lacking. This clearly calls into question the international experts currently in Equatorial Guinea who were sent by the United Nations.

In view of the above, the Government denounces the lack of political will and sincerity of certain political parties of the opposition, which, far from acting in accordance with the commitments undertaken and embodied in the National Pact, are attempting to slow down the democratization process with such insidious machinations.

None the less, the Government once again appeals to the national conscience of the political parties of the opposition to translate into reality the aspiration of the people of Equatorial Guinea to see the political transition process culminated.